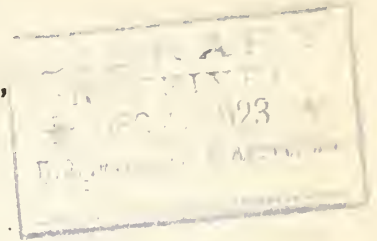


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
AND THE
SOUTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH COMMISSION,
COOPERATING.



INSTRUCTIONS FOR POISONING COYOTES.

EQUIPMENT:

To put out a poison line in the quickest and best way, the following outfit is necessary: A team and wagon, or sled in winter, an axe, a butcher knife, baling wire, and a 20-foot piece of strong rope. The rope is used to tie pieces of meat or carcasses behind the wagon in making a drag. The wire is for use in fastening large pieces of meat or parts of carcasses to trees or posts where they will serve as the stations about which poisoning is to be done.

PRELIMINARY MAGPIE POISONING:

In all of western South Dakota magpies are numerous and must be disposed of before baits are put out for coyotes. First, select the line to be poisoned over and then go over it, putting out magpie poison stations. Use pure strychnine in poisoning such magpie baits as fresh rabbits or prairie dogs, or any other pieces of meat material obtainable. Poison this well and tie into trees, brush, or on posts or large rocks, being sure that the bait is securely fastened so that it can not get on the ground. This should be done two or three days in advance of putting out coyote stations, and the magpie station should be put out close to where the coyote station is to be located.

Also poison any carcasses that you find magpies feeding on at this time. Porcupine, badger, coyote, and skunk carcasses all make good magpie stations. The poison should be placed in the lung and heart cavity and also in the fleshy parts of the body. The liver should be taken out, and, after being well poisoned, should be used as a separate magpie station. Continued poisoning magpies after you begin to put out coyote baits.

Meat can be put through a meat grinder and the strychnine then put in it. This kind of bait should be placed on large rocks, logs, and on boards or anything that will keep it off the ground and out of the dirt. A little cod liver oil put into the meat or on any magpie bait makes it more attractive to this bird. Remember that pure strychnine is as effective against magpies as the special processed poison, and costs less.

COYOTE POISON STATIONS AND LINES:

In establishing poison lines, stations should be strung out in the same manner as a trap line, except that the poison should cover several times more territory.

STATION MATERIAL:

(a) Horse carcass. Lead a horse out for slaughter, selecting a location to kill it where coyotes travel and where there is very little brush. Kill the horse and cut it into the following pieces: Head and neck (1 piece); shoulder blade with front leg attached (2 pieces); ribs (2 pieces); hind legs (2 pieces); rump; and the entrails. Each piece can then be used as a station. Save all fats, belly fat and fat from entrails included. These should be used in making poison baits.

(b) Dead cattle or sheep can be cut up and used in the same manner.

(c) Any carcass that coyotes have been feeding on.

(d) Old bone piles or one or two-year-old carcasses. Pile the bones up fresh or move them a few feet.

(e) Entrails of butchered animals.

(f) Dead animals, such as badgers, porcupines, skunks, or coyotes that have been killed and skinned all make good stations. A rabbit hung in brush or on a fence is good but do not get it more than 3 feet above the ground.

(g) Dead poultry, or birds of any kind, may be used, either hung in a bush or buried with a wing or tail exposed.

MAKING STATIONS:

After a horse or other animal has been butchered, everything except the entrails should be loaded into the wagon, the entrails and pouch being left as station No. 1. They should be poisoned for magpies. Poison baits for coyotes can be placed at this station at once.

Fasten a leg or other piece behind the wagon and use it as a drag, going on to station No. 2, where a piece of the carcass should be left as the station. Put out baits and also some magpie poison. Continue in this way until the whole carcass has been distributed.

The smaller pieces of meat should be wired fast to a stake, post, bush, or rock so that they can not be dragged around. Put out poison at all stations as soon as they are established, if magpie poison has been put out in advance, and always put out more magpie poison when establishing stations.

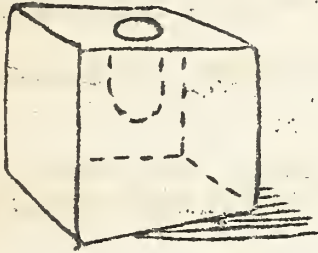
PRECAUTIONS:

Never fail to put out poison notices in a locality where you are poisoning. In districts where there is danger of killing dogs or other animals, inform local people; and in sheep districts, inform herders.

PREPARATION OF POISON BAIT:

(a) Use fresh clean fat from horses, sheep, cattle, and hogs. All such fat makes good bait. Back fat from the hog gives more bait material than that from any other animal.

(b) The hands should be clean and then thoroughly greased before starting to make baits. This is done to avoid leaving human scent. Make baits about one inch square and one inch thick, or, if fat is of such shape that it can not be so cut, use it in chunks of any suitable size. Never make large baits. Cut or press an opening in the bait, put in the poison, and close the opening securely with fat scrapings so that the poison will not lose out.



Size, about a 1-inch cube.



Size, about that of a walnut.

(c) Be careful of the poisoned baits after they have been made; put them into a clean can or syrup pail with a tight-fitting top.

(d) It is well when baiting, or when re-baiting stations, to make up baits the night before they are to be put out.

OTHER BAIT:

Lean fresh beef may be used, mixed with about an equal quantity of fat. Use scraps, ground together and molded into a ball the size of a walnut. With poison in the center this makes a good bait. Ground horse meat or mutton can also be used in the same way.

PUTTING OUT POISON BAIT:

After two or three lines of stations are out, and magpies have been poisoned and well thinned out, go over the stations, re-baiting them by placing from 6 to 15 baits around the station, circling around it at distances of 5 to 20 yards. Put the baits on cow chips, rocks, or any place where they will be clean and show up well. If there is snow on the ground, put the baits on bare spots or any place where they can be seen easily by any animal which happens along.

GENERAL HINTS:

- (a) Do not make baits of salt pork.
- (b) Do not place poison near main-traveled roads.
- (c) Do not use dirty or tainted meat for bait material.
- (d) Do not leave poison within reach of children.
- (e) Do not leave poison baits about ranches or camps; bury them deeply or burn them if they are unfit for use.
- (f) Always keep all baits and all bait material fresh and clean.
- (g) Save all coyote skins when the fur is good. If the animal is mangy, or the fur slips, save scalp.
- (h) Return poison jars after they are empty. Wash them carefully and mail them to the Inspector, in packages of furs or well packed by themselves.
- (i) Do not supply poison to private hunters or to ranchers. Refer them to the Inspector.
- (j) Always obtain permission before putting poison baits on private lands.

SKINNING COYOTES:

- (a) When coyotes are frozen too hard to skin, put them in a cool place until a warm day comes, and then hang out on the sunny side of a building until thawed sufficiently for skinning.
- (b) Hang a frozen coyote at night in a barn filled with horses and it will be thawed enough to skin by morning.
- (c) Put a frozen coyote in a manure pile and it will thaw out over night.
- (d) When fur is good, all coyote skins should be cased, stretched, and cured flesh side out.